



TUFOIC NEWSLETTER



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A TASMANIAN CONNECTION

Tasmania has had its fair share of UFO events over the years but it has come as something of a surprise to the Centre to find two sightings by Tasmanians at the time of the Mundrabilla Incident. (The well publicized Nullabor events of January 20th last) One witness was travelling across the Nullabor some hours ahead of the Knowles' vehicle, whilst the second report comes from a Tasmanian Yacht off the New South Wales Coast.

The Nullabor sighting blazed across the Australian Newspapers in a similar manner to a meteorite in the night sky. A mass of headlines, conflicting facts, followed by rapid fire explanations to wrap up the articles. Investigation by UFO Groups was difficult due to the Channel 7 network exclusive deal with the witnesses. A lot of hard work has been done since the media lost interest, investigators have been following up to construct an accurate picture of what actually happened.

In brief the sighting occurred some 40km west of Mundrabilla on the West Australian stretch of the Nullabor. Mrs Fay Knowles and her three adult sons were travelling east to Melbourne. They saw a light approach them along the road, the light appeared both in front and behind the vehicle. The driver made two U-turns, to either evade or pursue the light. Later he swerved to miss the object and nearly hit an oncoming car with caravan. A number of events then occurred, Mrs Knowles felt a "spongy substance" on the roof; a "greyish-black mist" came into the car; they believed an object landed on the roof, lifted the car and dropped it, bursting a rear tyre. Also a humming sound was heard, their voices slowed down, a smell like "dead bodies" was in the air. Stopping the car they all got out and hid in the scrub as the object remained in the vicinity. Once it had departed they changed the tyre and continued on towards the east.

Channel 7 asked the Australian Mineral Development Laboratory in Adelaide to examine the car. Three shallow dents were observed on the roof, the dents were consistent with an object being pressed into the roof, rather than an attempt to lift the roof. Analyses of dust showed a major concentration of iron oxide plus lesser concentrations of silicon, crystalline magnetite and brass. The deposits were consistent with dust from wearing brake pads. The damage to the tyre was consistent with running on a deflated tyre, this would account for the odour, smoke, and vibrations. The first Tasmanian event to be linked to the Mundrabilla case was a December 14th encounter near Launceston. Newspapers inaccurately stated that a sooty deposit had been made on the car in the Tasmanian sighting. The deposit in the local case was probably bitumen on the front of the vehicle. (see our June Newsletter for previous mention on this case).

U.F.O. Encounter ? Coaster another victim.

So ran the Advocate (Burnie) headline of January 25th. The story being about a Burnie man who experienced car trouble and saw bright lights whilst crossing the Nullabor just three hours before the Knowles report.

Tasmanian Connection Contd:

The article goes on to tell how the Burnie man was driving across the Nullabor early on Wednesday morning (Jan 20th) after visiting friends in Perth.

They were travelling along the Eyre Highway between Penong and Ceduna at 2.40am when he heard a loud thump coming from above the vehicle.

"At first I thought it was the gas bottle on top of the car, but there's no way it could come off because it's screwed down," he said. "There was stuff coming off that roof I still haven't found ..I've gone 450,000 miles and they've never come off!"

He then saw a series of flashing lights in the sky, which lasted for about 15 minutes.

"They were just white flashing lights coming towards earth and I didn't know what they were," he said. "It seemed funny that the wind picked up around that time."

The vehicle was simultaneously buffeted by near gale-force winds that shook parts off the roof and completely bent the aerial, but caused minimal damage.

The wind lasted for about an hour and they were blown all over the road. "It frightened the living daylights out of me," he said. He had a video camera and a normal camera but he had run out of film. He woke his girlfriend up and they continued driving - stopping only to briefly refuel from a jerrycan- till they reached Kimba five hours later.

At 8am the same morning they stopped and spoke to two German tourists who had been in the area, but they claimed that they had been asleep on the side of the road at the time of the incident.

They then drove on to Adelaide where he related the incident to his uncle, who mentioned the fact that there had been another sighting about the same time.

"I didn't think it was the same thing because we were miles in front of them, but then I saw it on TV and I started wondering," he said.

"I didn't think of U.F.O.s till my uncle mentioned it."

The other sighting occurred on the Nullabor Plain near the town of Mundrabilla about 75km west of the South Australian border.

The family reported the sighting claimed that they saw "a light object" that picked their car up and shook it, causing a tyre to be blown out, before showering the vehicle with ash and disappearing. The two incidents occurred about 380km away from each other with about three hours between them, the Mundrabilla incident occurring at 5.30am.

He said he was still not sure as to the exact nature of his experience.

"I don't know if it was a U.F.O. or meteorites, and I think the Woomera range is around there somewhere," he said.

Talking to the witness later the Centre learnt that his car lost power and would not go over 70kph during the sighting. The lights looked like a row of bright white steady beams covering a wide area of the sky. The wind effect moved the vehicle about across the road. When the light beams finally disappeared the car regained normal power and the buffeting stopped.

(Detail on the Mundrabilla incident from ACUFOS, PO Box 728, Lane Cove NSW 2066)

CE2 6 Oct 87 Haifa, Israel

An Israeli motorist claimed to have seen a UFO land S of the Mediterranean city of Haifa in northern Israel. Two police officers accompanied the man to the location, and after an hour's search, found a spot 8 m in diameter where beach sand and vegetation had been "carbonised".

("The Australian", 9 Oct 87.)

Tasmanian Connection Contd:

Meanwhile way across the Continent another group of witnesses were being puzzled by a number of strange lights and possible effects. The event took place on the night of January 20/21st off the New South Wales coast. The witnesses were on a Tasmanian yacht in the Tall Ships Race from Hobart to Sydney. The sighting took place near the Beecroft Peninsula. At the time conditions were overcast with a north east wind and rough seas.

Initially a white light was seen to the stern and was assumed to be an aircraft then a helicopter as it took up a position to the east and stopped moving. The light appeared to be only 20 to 30m above the sea, after going bright then dim it went out. A second light was seen soon after by 4 witnesses, this had a perimeter of small white lights which changed to red and dropped into the water, the parent light moved away at great speed.

A third light now appeared on the starboard bow, after 10 minutes it was abeam the yacht and looked very steady although the sea was rough. As it passed a beam of light onto the water was visible below, inspection with binoculars showed nothing visible in the beam.

Finally 30 minutes later another red light appeared low on the water off the port bow, this light looked to be only 10 boatlengths away and 3 boatlengths to the side. The light maintained its position even when the witness took his yacht into a 360 degree turn. This light was in front of the yacht for about 1½ hours, it was 3am when it disappeared. Suddenly a bright white light lit up above the red light for about 5 seconds, when it went out the red light had also disappeared.

During the time when the lights were seen the vessel and the witness were full of static electricity to such an extent that sparks came off the steering wheel onto the witnesses hands.

The next day all the stainless steel fittings and deckplate were covered in red rust which the owner had great trouble in removing. In the end they got rid of it with oxidic acid.

The witness has had the yacht for 5 years and done many thousands of miles of ocean sailing plus sailing in other parts of the world. The owner said he had never experienced anything like this before and could not find an explanation for the events.

No samples of the rust were taken so that no analysis were possible. Several months passed before the Centre learnt about the case and were able to obtain details of the sightings.

The News,

May 18, 1988

UFO seen on the run

■ **RUNNERS** in the Darwin-to-Adelaide record attempt claim they saw a bright-green 2m UFO last night outside Coober Pedy.

■ **THREE** people, including a back-up nurse and two runners, saw the object hovering above a group of bushes for a few seconds before disappearing into the sky.

■ **"THE** nurse, Lisa Dowling, was visibly shaken by the whole thing," said coach Tony Rafferty.

■ **"SHE** said she had never seen anything like it."

■ **BUT** another runner who saw the object claimed it was more likely a local prank to scare runners.

■ **MR.** Rafferty said runners were in high spirits and would arrive in Adelaide about 3pm tomorrow and at the Port Adelaide Super K Mart store at noon on Friday.

NL 27 Mar 88 Nasinu, Fiji 2030 hrs

Schoolboy Nitin Roynand and friend Vishal Manoa noticed a light in the sky which changed from a shining gold colour to green to brown and then back to gold again as it moved slowly S. The object was circular with a shining halo around it which hurt the eyes whenever it was looked at. Visible for about 20 minutes, the object moved NW, slowly changing colour all the time, before it disappeared leaving behind a trail of yellow light like a phantom image.

("The Fiji Times", 29 Mar 88.)

Credit ACUFOS for the Overseas Sightings.

MEANWHILE IN TASMANIA

Meanwhile in Tasmania the rush of early sightings has eased to around one a month, but this is still well above the activity of recent years, a couple of reports are still under investigation.

Our first case occurred on June 20th just out of Launceston on the old Midland Highway. The witness was driving south when she noticed an oval mass of white light a few kilometers to the south east. There was a blue light spinning beneath the oval. The stationary object suddenly shot up and into cloud in about a second.

Dodges Ferry was the location of the next object when a lone witness saw a luminous green shaped cone drift briefly across his field of view to the south east. The date was July 5th about 9.45pm. No aircraft were in the area and local investigations failed to produce an explanation.

Another Southern sighting came to notice on July 28th, this time at 3am from Glenorchy, the witness was up to go to the toilet when a humming top noise caught her attention. The nearby dogs cried and birds stirred. A yellow light came into the house from outside. The witness was too frightened to move but then looked out to see the back-yard lit up by a light from above. She went to call her husband but when they returned all was quiet.

The action moved to the West Coast on August 9th when several Hydro Electric workers spotted an oval green object with a bright beam below. The object moved around and behind Mt Jukes, then finally came up again and let off three tracer type red lights towards the coast. It moved back behind Mt Jukes and was not seen again.

Two other cases in the pipeline are near Evandale on July 24th when round yellow light possibly paced a car, and from Oatlands a circle of lights seen over the town on September 14th. Meanwhile our Northern Rep: is following a sighting from Turners Marsh on September 5th with mention of a quarter moon light that came down over Mt Arthur.

TUFOIC PUBLICATIONS

TASMANIAN U.F.O. COMPUTER CATALOGUE - TASCAT 1987\$2.50
(A complete list of over 400 Tasmanian Unidentifieds)

TASMANIAN LANDINGS CATALOGUE - Second Edition \$2.50
(Provides details of Unidentifieds seen on or near Ground level)

MAATSUYKER ISLAND DOCUMENT \$2.00
(details of sightings from this lonely Lighthouse island)

UFO TASMANIA Magazines: 1978 to 1988 (10 issue set)..... \$7.00
(TUFOIC's Annual Report Magazine)
Single editions available (state which year required).... \$1.00
Please add 80c for each additional copy or Year required.

NORTH-EAST 1974 Document\$2.00
(Full details of the big North-East Tasmanian flap of 1974)

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Lizard Man has rural community flat out

BISHOPVILLE, South Carolina — Some say the "Lizard Man" is over 2 metres tall with red eyes and three-fingered hands. Others say he's the product of an overactive imagination.

But he is certainly the catalyst for a loony and lucrative summer in this town of 3500 people deep in the rural southern swamplands.

It all started when 17-year-old Christopher Davis told police that he had been attacked by a creature while changing a tyre in nearby Scape Ore Swamp about 2 o'clock one morning in June.

He said that the creature was more than 2 metres tall, black-green in color and grabbed the door of his car, running at 55kmh as he fled.

Davis said that he swerved along the road before the creature, which had jumped on his car, was thrown off.

As word of the sighting spread, hundreds of outsiders came to walk through the swamp west of town. A radio station offered a \$1 million reward. Reporters descended on the quiet farming community.

Entrepreneurs are selling hats, T-shirts, inflatable toy dinosaurs and even wanted posters with an artist's impression of the Lizard Man.

But local police have had enough. Sitting on a counter in the Sheriff's Department is a can of "Liz-A-Rid" repellent — a can that appears to have nothing in it.

The News, March 21, 1988 UFO over China

HONG KONG: China today reported an unidentified flying object over its remote north-western region of Xinjiang. The UFO — as big as a basketball and beaming like a search light — was sighted cruising beside an inter-China passenger flight on Friday night, the New China News Agency said. After three minutes the object split in two, spinning at high speed, and then disappeared.

St Helens school classroom lit up by lightning fireball

A St Helens school classroom was lit up by a blue light as a lightning fireball struck several building and cut off communications on Wednesday morning.

Damage to Telecom lines is expected to cost several thousand dollars.

The St Helens Urban Fire Brigade secretary, Mr Robert Luckel, said yesterday that an electrical storm struck the town about 10 o'clock during constant rain.

Several people reported seeing a fireball strike the wharf and then roll up the street, where several bolts struck out.

The bolts apparently struck the St Helens District High School, the hospital, the Medea Park retirement home, and the telephone exchange building.

The school building was slightly damaged in a section of the roof.

Lightning late on Tuesday night also

struck a manhole cover and welded the lid together.

Telecom's external plant manager, Mr Trevor Radford, said that the lightning penetrated underground cables and cut off at least 100 subscribers.

Mr Radford said that this included the fire brigade, police and the hospital, but these services were restored very soon afterwards.

Mr Radford said that the lightning travelled along the cables and cut telephone lines to Binalong Bay, The Gardens and the business area of St Helens.

The total cost of the damage would not be known until all the damaged cables were replaced.

Some people were still reporting telephone difficulties and workmen were still repairing damage yesterday.

THE EXAMINER, Friday, August 5, 1988 — 15

Hint of other Earths

BALTIMORE — US and Canadian astronomers have found 10 planet-like objects orbiting distant stars, a discovery that intensifies speculation about the existence of life beyond the Earth.

In reports yesterday at the International Astronomical Union assembly, astronomers from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory said that they had found what might be a very large planet orbiting a star 90 light years away.

In an independent study, an astronomer from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, said he had found evidence of planets orbiting nine stars, and suggested that as many as half of the stars in the Milky Way galaxy might have planetary companions.

Bruce Campbell, chief of the Canadian team, said his result showing that the majority of stars in the galaxy perhaps had planetary systems could be interpreted as a sign that there are also Earth-like planets suitable for life.

"But we have no evidence of that at all," he said.

David Latham, leader of the Smithsonian team, said: "It makes it easier to speculate than it was a few years ago when there were zero planetary candidates."

"We can start to speculate now about how often life evolved."

Latham said that the planet-like object he found was about 20 times the size of Jupiter, and was orbiting so close to star HD 114762 that it would be much hotter than an oven.

The News, Tuesday, February 9, 1988 Noisy UFO 'buzzes' UK police station

LONDON: Seasoned policemen smiled when a woman PC radioed in to say she had spotted a UFO ... until they heard engines droning above their station.

PC Susan Jackson went to investigate when dozens of sightings were reported to Ecclesfield Police Station, near Sheffield.

Minutes later she saw a V-shaped craft hovering close by. Even above the car engine, Susan, 29, could hear its motors and saw a row of red flashing lights.

A few hundred yards away PC John Boam spotted the mystery object for 30 seconds before it flew away.

As he watched in amazement, he heard Susan radio in to her control room.

And officers on duty there heard a motor whirring directly overhead.

They checked with RAF Finningley near Doncaster, which covers the area by radar — but nothing had shown up on its screens.

The News, Jan. 27, 1988 On the outer after encounter

LONDON: A policeman claims a close encounter with creatures from outer space eight years ago cost him his job.

Alan Godfrey was driving a police car near his home station of Todmorden, West Yorkshire, when he saw a diamond shaped UFO hovering. Its windows were tinted and the bottom half was rotating.

Now a club steward, Godfrey said he was beamed up into the spaceship and wired to a table by a 1.5m tall being.

Tiny robots had buzzed around, peering at him and the next thing he recalls is being shaken by the shoulders. Godfrey believes chiefs tried to hush it up.

TUFOIC MEETING NOTICE



Thursday 6th October 1988

Starting at 7.30 PM

at the

DERWENT REGIONAL LIBRARY

Room 1

Terry St. Glenorchy

Coffee and Biscuits provided